MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

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NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

CLUB EXHIBIT WILL BE FEATURED DURING MARYLAND WEEK

College Park, Md., Oct. 2.

Keen interest is being shown by local farmers' organizations in the State in the club exhibit contest scheduled as a leading feature of "Maryland Week." Probably no contest in past years held in connection with the Annual Exhibition has equalled in interest and friendly rivalry this club-exhibit contest, in which the various neighborhoods of the State compete. Space for the booths is offered free by the management, the exhibits to include all products of the farm, such as fruits, vegetables, cereals, forage crops, tobacco, dairy products, bee products, home canned and preserved goods. No other exhibits, such as confectionery, needlework, or other products not grown on the farm, will be allowed as part of the display.

Under the rules of the contest all exhibits must be of the quantity specified in the list of club exhibits and correctly labeled. The judges of club exhibits will first judge the products in the respective booths, awarding first, second, and third prize ribbons for worthy exhibits in each class. A premium of twenty-five cents for all first-prize ribbons and fifteen cents for second-prize ribbons in each club exhibit will be paid to the organization making the exhibit.

The club exhibit as a whole will then be judged on the following scale, allowing for—

Quality of products, 50 per cent; variety, 20 per cent; percentage of membership competing, 10 per cent; arrangment of products, 10 per cent; attractiveness of booth, 10 per cent. In arriving at their decision on quality the judges will score each class of exhibits and credit each club with its respective points. The secretary of each club must submit lists of exhibitors, showing the percentage of its membership exhibiting. Complete description of rules governing the contest is being distributed from the office of Secretary State Horticultural Association. All entries for competition in the Club Exhibit Contest must be filed with E. N. Cory, College Park, before October 15.

MARYLAND BOYS AND GIRLS ENGAGE IN A COUNTRY LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

College Park, Md., Oct. 2.

Officials in charge of the Maryland Week Essay Contest for the school boys and girls of Maryland report a large number of entries. This contest which was established for the purpose of arousing the interest of our school children in the agricultural problems of the State is meeting with much enthusiasm. The subjects selected for the competition this year were for the boys, "What can be done to promote the interests of agriculture in Maryland," and for the girls, "How the daughters of Maryland farmers can make the farm home more attractive."

These essays are to contain not less than one thousand words and not more than two thousand, and may be illustrated by drawings, photographs or photogravures. They should be written in ink on one side of the paper, and submitted unsigned with a sealed envelope containing the writer's name accompanying the essay. All essays to be entered must be in the hands of T. B. Symons, College Park, Md., not later than 6 p. m., October 20. It is believed that, judging by the excellent material submitted last year, much valuable information regarding the subjects assigned and the viewpoints of the contestants will be secured. For the first prize in each branch of the contest, $20 in gold is offered as well as a medal for the winner in each county competition.

AMATEUR GARDENERS TO COMPETE AT MARYLAND WEEK

College Park, Md., Oct. 2.

In addition to the numerous competitions in farm and garden products to be held during Maryland Week, an especial competition is being held for amateur gardeners who are residents of Baltimore and its suburbs. The exhibits will be judged by a Home Garden Committee, the only requirements for contestants being that the plants exhibited be in the exhibitor's possession and grown by him for not less than two months. Special prizes offered are $15 and $10 in cash for first and second in an exhibit of the models of gardens con-

structed with natural plants and foliage. First and second prizes of $5 and $3 each are offered for the best filled window boxes of hardy plants for winter use. Provision is also made in this list for the school children of Baltimore to compete and it is anticipated that teacher and parents will give the children every encouragement to take part in this special competition in growing and exhibiting fruits, flowers and vegetables.

SUDAN GRASS AND SOY BEANS FIND FAVOR AMONG EASTERN SHORE FARMERS

College Park, Md., Oct. 1.

Prof. Nickolas Schmitz of the Maryland Agricultural College Experiment Station recently visited County Agents G. B. Porter of Dorchester and H. S. Lippencott of Somerset. In both counties tests are being carried on in the growing of soy beans and sudan grass. Sudan grass, particularly in Somerset where there has been an unusually dry season, is meeting with much favor as a forage crop. It can be planted when unfavorable conditions have injured the hay crop and furnishes the farmer with two or three cuttings of excellent long feed. It will not replace the finer grades of hays, particularly the clover and alfalfa, but is proving well adapted to Eastern Shore conditions as a dry weather crop.

Soy bean experiments on the farms of demonstrators indicate that the soy bean will take the place of the cow pea in sections to which it is better adapted. Among the varieties on test, the Virginia, the Wilson and the Haberland are giving especial satisfaction. Several new varieties, not yet named, and sent out from the Experiment Station on test this year have given promising yields. General results with soy beans indicate that the results on the farms of local demonstrators are practically the same as those secured on the experimental fields at College Park. The soy bean will undoubtedly be a leading crop in many sections of the State, and in land not adapted to wheat growing is undoubtedly a more profitable crop to grow.

Prof. Schmitz also reports that demonstrators in many counties are being supplied improved wheat for seeding, not more than enough to a man to seed an acre. The wheat thus supplied is planted in the same field with wheat such as is commonly used in the neighborhood, and under exactly the same conditions of soil treatment and fertilization, so that the farmer can better determine for himself whether or not the improved variety is superior to his own. This method of practical demonstration has been the means of introducing a large number of improved wheats into various sections of the State, resulting in larger yieids and improved quality.

LARGE NUMBER OF LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS WILL PRECEDE MARYLAND WEEK

College Park, Md., Oct. 4.

County Agents and their demonstrators in every section are actively preparing to exhibit the farm products of the county at Baltimore during Maryland week. Previous to sending their exhibits to the Baltimore show, they will hold local exhibits at some central point in each county, many of which will be judged by experts of the Extension Service. A special feature in many counties will the exhibits of the Boys' Corn Clubs, in which warm competition is expected.

The exhibiting of corn is becoming more and more of a science as both boys and adult farmers are taking a keen interest in these competitions. The following points should be borne in mind in selecting corn for exhibition. The first thing to remember is that the sample will be judged as a whole and not in part on the merits of a few exceptionally fine ears. Two or three unusually good ears out of the ten exhibited in the sample cannot make up for deficiencies in the balance. They will bring out more prominently the poor qualities of the other ears and therefore detract from rather than add to the appearnce of the sample.

Uniformity should be one of the principal considerations in selecting corn for exhibition. Have every ear like every other ear in shape, size character of kernel, color of cob, and in shade and color of grain. When selecting the samples, first pick out in the field while husking one hundred or more of the best ears to be found, lay them out on the table or floor side by side, and having in mind all the characters of a good ear, study each carefully and eliminate the poorest ones. Two or three hours can be very profitably spent at this. Next select two or three of the most ideal ears in the pile, using such as a standard, and match them with as many good ears as can be found. Finally, out of these lots, choose the best ten ears that match.

Particular attention should be given to having the ears well matured, heavy and dry. The grain should be firm on the cob, bright in color, and free from mould, rotten spots or other injury. Shrunken, wet or loose kernels on the cob indicate immaturity.

Kernels should be free from mixture of corn of opposite color, and the color true to the variety. The cobs should also be of one color; in yellow corn, red; in white corn, white. One cob of the opposite color should bar the exhibit. The kernels of the different ears in the sample should be uniform in size, shape, identification and color. The rows of kernels should fit well up against each other, both at the crown and tip.

The cob should be medium in size with a diameter about the length of the kernel. Too large a cob beside giving a low per cent of grain is slow in drying out and is often the cause of rotting in the field and of low germination in the spring. On the other hand, too small a cob does not favor a large yield per acre. In order to have a good-sized ear there must be cob.